

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 02393 260859 Z

20

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02

INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01 AGR-20 NSC-10 SS-14

STR-08 CEA-02 RSR-01 /139 W
----- 019269

R 260641 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8448

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 2393

E . O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EIND

SUBJECT: PROSPECTIVE NEW WHEAT AND FERTILIZER PRICES

1. DURING COURSE OF SOCIAL OCCASION AT HIS RESIDENCE MARCH 22, CHARGE ASKED PUNJAB GOVERNOR KHAR WHAT HE THOUGHT GOVERNMENT SHOULD DO WITH RESPECT WHEAT AND FERTILIZER PRICES. KHAR READILY RESPONDED THAT WITHIN " FEW DAYS" THERE WOULD BE AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF INCREASE IN FLOOR PROCUREMENT PRICES FOR WHEAT FROM RS. 20 TO RS. 22.50 PER MAUND, AND IN FERTILIZER SALE PRICES TO FARMERS FROM RS. 35 TO RS. 42-44 PER BAG (50 KILOS), DEPENDING ON WHETHER UREA OR DAP. (FERTILIZER PRICE INCREASE WOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO MOVE FROM RS. 700 PER TON TO WELL OVER RS. 800 PER TON.)
2. CHARGE REMARKED THIS WAS WELCOME NEWS, AND NOTED THAT HE HAD RAISED QUESTION OF WHEAT/ FERTILIZER PRICE STRUCTURE DURING RECENT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BHUTTO. KHAR REJOINED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF MEETING AND VOLUNTEERED THAT IT HAD PLAYED ROLE IN BRINGING ABOUT PRICE ADJUSTMENT AT THIS TIME.

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3. COMMENT: ON SHEERLY ECONOMIC GROUNDS THESE STEPS
HAVE BEEN RATHER LONG OVERDUE, BUT WE HAVE RECOGNIZED
POLITICAL PROBLEMS CONFRONTING GOVERNMENT IN ANY MOVES
WHICH EXACERBATE RISING COSTS OF LIVING. PRESENT
MEASURES ILLUSTRATE GOVERNMENT'S TECHNIQUE IN GRADUAL
STEP- BY- STEP MEASURES TO ACHIEVE IMPROVED PRICING
PATTERNS, WHILE AVOIDING THE KIND OF SHARP PRICE
ADJUSTMENTS WHICH COULD HAVE POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS.

DECON 6/30/73
SOBER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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LAHORE
SECSTATE WASHDC
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